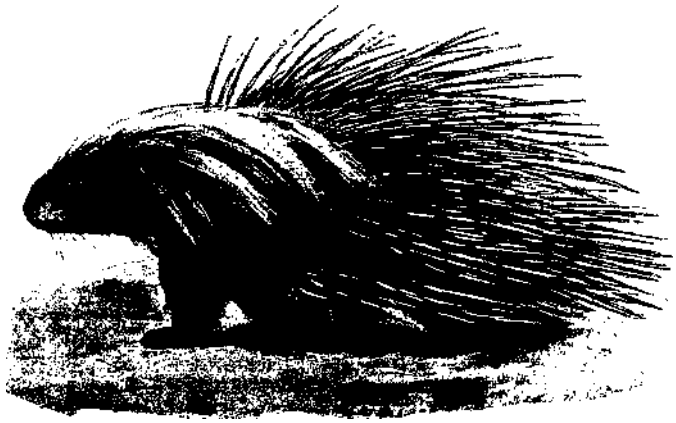
and even occurring in Europe. There are several species, of which the common *Hystrix cristata* is the best known, and is the
one which is to be found in Europe.

The spines of the common form and of the others are solid in the middle of the body, but on the tail they are expanded into hollow quills, which make much rattling. They are as a rule black and white, the middle of the spine being- banded with black. A great crest of coarse long hairs on the head is responsible for the scientific name of the well-known form.



PIG. 245,—Common Porcupine. *Uystrix cristata.* x ^.

Sometimes in this genus, as in the Tree Porcupines of Brazil, the spines are orange or yellow; but it is said that the colour is soon lost in this country. As a matter of fact it is the easiest thing in the world to wash out with ordinary tap-water much of the yellow colour of the spines of the South American *JSpMngurus.* The same may be the case with the pigment of the Old-World Porcupines. There are fourteen to fifteen dorsal vertebrae and four or five lumbars. The tail varies in length, but is shorter than the long tail of the arboreal New-World forms. It seems impossible when mentioning the Porcupine to escape from some observations about its alleged habit of shooting its quills. For some reason or otfcer Buffon has got the credit of inventing, or at